

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims' a., be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

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## Gen French Success.

### Retreat of Boers About Colesburg Officially Confirmed.

London, Jan 2.—The success of Gen French column is at length confirmed officially, the war office this afternoon issuing a dispatch from Cape Town, Monday, Jan 1, as follows:

"French reports at 2 p. m. today from Coleskop, by heliograph, as follows: 'Leaving at Rensburg, holding the enemy in front, half of the First Suffolk and a section of the Royal Horse Artillery, I started thence at 5 in the afternoon, Dec 31, taking with me five squadrons of cavalry, half of the Second Barks and 80 mounted infantry, infantry carried in wagons, and 10 guns.'

"I halted for four hours at Maiders farm, and at 3.30 this morning occupied the kopje overlooking and westward of Colesburg. The enemy's outposts were taken completely by surprise. At daylight we shelled the laager and enfiladed the right of the enemy's position. The artillery fire in reply was very hot from a 15 pounder using royal laboratory ammunition, and other guns. We silenced the guns on the enemy's right flank, demonstrating with cavalry and guns to the north of Colesburg towards the junction, where a strong laager of the enemy was holding a hill and a position southeast of Colesburg, as far as the junction. Our position cuts the line of retreat via the road and bridge. Some thousands of Boers, with two guns, are reported to be retreating towards Norvalspont. All Remington's scouts proceeded towards Acherland yesterday morning. Slight casualties; about three killed and few wounded; details later.

### A COOPERATING MOVE.

Modder River, Jan 2.—Yesterday's cavalry expedition under Gen Babington, commanding the Ninth and Twelfth Lancers, proves to have been in cooperation with a similar movement from Belmont. This, directed by Gen Wood, consisted of a flying column and a force under Lieut Col Pilcher from Belmont. This force moved into the territory between the Orange and Riet rivers. At Sunnyside, northwest of Douglas, it encountered a considerable commando, believed to be wholly composed of disloyal British subjects.

Gen Babington's force proceeded in the same direction, but on the north side of Riet river. The result of this reconnaissance has not yet been reported.

### TUGELA RIVER BECOMES FORDABLE

London, Jan 3.—The Daily Telegraph has received the following, dated Jan 2, from Frere Camp:

The weather is fine. The Tugela River is now fordable. Gen Buller's army is in fine form, ready and confident for the work before it."

### BOERS SAY THEY BEAT BRITISH

Pretoria, Jan. 1.—Last night (Sunday) the British in great force attacked Commandant Schoeman's commando in the Colesburg district and tried to storm the position. They were repulsed the attack this morning, but were forced to retreat, the Boers holding the position. The loss of the British is not known, but it is reported to have been heavy.

The Boers consider it a great compliment to the Transvaal that Lord Roberts should have been selected to the supreme command of the British forces.

### Gen French Unable to Take Advantage of Position.

London, Jan 4, 4.30 a. m.—There is a complete absence of anything new from the seat of war. The report of the Boer attack upon Molteno is not yet confirmed. Apparently Gen French holds nothing within five miles of Colesburg Junction. His request for reinforcements dispels any present hope that he will be able to seize one of the crossings of the Orange river.

It is probable that when Lord Roberts arrives Gen French will be ordered to quit his present unoccupied position and to concentrate his command at De Aar or Orange river. The Daily Telegraph says: "Gen French seems to be in the

position of a man having a tiger cat in a trap and unable to kill it for want of a stick."

A dispatch from Dover Farm announces that Lieut Col Pilcher has returned safely from Douglas. Since Commandant General Joubert's return to the front the cannonade of Ladysmith by the Boers has been much livelier. Between Dec 18 and 29 four shells killed one officer and 13 men and wounded 13 officers and 11 men.

The war office acknowledges the inferiority of the regular artillery by authorizing the equipment of the new battery attached to the London volunteer corps with Vickers and Maxims, some of which the Boers use, and by ordering 100 of these 12½ pounder quick-firers built immediately. The officers and men of the new battery will be supplied from the Honorable Artillery company.

Eight additional militia regiments have been called out. Seven of these will serve in Ireland, replacing the regulars sent to South Africa.

From a course which has many facilities of gaining inside news from South Africa, a representative of the Associated Press learns that Col Pilcher's occupation of Douglas is regarded as merely the first step of Gen Methuen's carefully matured plans to outflank the Boers.

According to this authority, it is probable Col Pilcher, in conjunction with Gen Babington's force from the Modder river, will proceed to the rear of these intrenchments which now prevent Gen Methuen from proceeding to Kimberley. Col Pilcher has only about 40 miles travel before he achieves this end, and if this understanding is correct an attack by Gen Methuen and a determined effort to relieve Kimberley may be expected any day.

A special dispatch from Rensburg, dated Tuesday, Jan 2, says a supply train, without a locomotive, was set in motion within the British lines near Colesburg, and proceeded so near the Boer position that it was impossible to recover it, and the British guns there destroyed the trucks. It is suspected that this was the act of a traitor.

The total British casualties about Colesburg, in two days, were six men killed and 20 wounded.

The supply train, says another dispatch from Rensburg, ran into a broken culvert and was wrecked. The Boers began looting it and another Rensburg train was dispatched to the spot in an attempt to recover the provisions. The Boers opened fire on the troops and natives accompanying it, forcing the second train to retreat after several of the natives had been killed.

### WILL NOT TAKE DELAGOA BAY

London, Jan 3.—A representative of the Associated Press has been informed on good authority that Great Britain will not take Delagoa bay. The British government, it is added, does not contemplate any such step, in spite of the clamor of the press and public opinion upon the advisability of so doing.

### WILL ACCOMPANY BOER ARMY.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Capt. Carl Reichmann, of the Seventeenth Infantry, and assistant adjutant general of volunteers, has been detailed by the secretary of war to accompany the Boer army for the purpose of observing and reporting upon military operations in the war in South Africa.

### BOERS ACTIVE AROUND KIMBERLEY.

Kimberley, Dec. 26.—The Boers last night evinced considerable interest in the Premier mine, using their search lights. This morning they actively shelled the fort. The Royal Artillery replied. Our shells were well placed, and dropped amid the smoke of the enemy's guns.

Last night's storm ignited some of our military mines, but there were no casualties. Cecil Rhodes has supplied the Boer prisoners with new clothing.

### BRISK ACTION IN PROGRESS AT MOLTENO.

Sterkstroom, Cape Colony, Jan. 3.—Morning.—The Boers attacked Molteno this morning. A brisk action is now in progress.

### BULLER CONTINUES HIS SURPRISES

London, Jan 3.—Gen. Buller continues his night bombardments and patrol surprises. The Tugela is again fordable, and the stretcher bearers have again been requisitioned at Durban and Pietermaritzburg. There is a disposition to believe that the British will not long be delayed.

It is reported at Durban that the captured steamer Bundesrath had on board five big guns, six tons of shells and 180 trained artillerymen.

### FIGHTING AT COLESBERG.

London, Jan 3.—A special dispatch from Naauwpoort, dated Tuesday, Jan 2, says the British commando Norval's

Pont bridge with two guns and also command the Colesberg bridge and that the Boers have no way to retreat, except by way of Normberg.

The dispatch adds that big developments are expected.

Naauwpoort, Cape Colony, Jan 2.—There was brisk fighting today in the hills around Colesberg. The Boers stubbornly resisted the British at every point, but gradually retreated.

The British holds the extreme position to the south and east, over to King the town.

The hills around Colesberg are numerous, not in ranges, but in groups, making it very difficult to hunt the Boers out. Sixteen wounded have arrived at Arandell.

### Boers Still Fortifying the Hills, Now Have 40 Miles of Entrenchments.

London, Jan 5, 5 a. m.—This morning's news throws no further light upon the war situation.

Lord Methuen's cavalry scouting has developed the fact that the Boers' entrenchments extend some 40 miles, far overlapping the British position and making flank attacks exceedingly difficult. Military analysis affirms that the Boer trenches confronting Gen Buller stretch away some 17 miles and that work upon them is pushed unremittingly.

It now appears that it is John Churchill, second son of Lady Randolph Churchill, and not Winston Spencer Churchill, who has been given command of the squadron of the South African Light Horse.

A report comes from Berlin that Great Britain's reply to Germany's representations on the subject of the Bundesrath is regarded as unsatisfactory and procrastinating.

Further details of the fighting between Gen Gatacre and the Boers at Cyphergat yesterday shows that 3,000 Boers, with artillery, attacked a British outpost between Cyphergat and Molteno. Gen Gatacre, with mounted troops and field artillery, moved out in front of Sterkstroom and found the Boers strongly posted at Coperberg, whence they were quickly dislodged, the Boers fleeing in the direction of Stromberg. The Boers used the British guns captured Dec 10 and shot well, but the British kept under cover and there were no casualties on their side.

The war office has received a report from Cape Town dated Wednesday, Jan 3, reporting the situation in Gen Gatacre's district. It says: "Dordrecht is now evacuated by Montmorency who occupies Birds siding of the Indwe line.

"Molteno is being attacked today by the enemy, who more or less surround the police station, but who, according to reports, are being forced back. Reinforcements of mounted infantry and field artillery have been sent by Gen Gatacre. The result is not known.

"A company of mounted infantry under Aldersden has reconnoitered to Prieska and exchanged shots with the rebel forces on the north bank. "No movement of Gens Methuen and French is reported."

The British foreign office knows nothing about the report that the Boer arbitrators have made their award in the Delagoa bay railroad question, and, so far as the foreign officials are able to ascertain, it has not yet been made.

### BOERS REPORT ON SITUATION.

Boer Camp, Colenso, Tuesday, Jan 2.—The British naval guns at Chieveley camp continue their ineffective long range fire night and day, in order to divert Boer attention from the movement of the troops.

Federal scouts yesterday penetrated into the British camp. When returning the British pickets discovered them and wounded one Boer.

Gen Lucas Meyer resumes command of the division here.

Gen Joubert denies that he has ever protested against the use of lyddite. He avers that up to the present he has not lost a single man by lyddite.

### KAFFIRS DEFEATED BY DUTCH.

Pretoria, Jan 4.—Since starting the mint here has coined 140,000 sovereigns. The machinery is now in full swing.

Vansensberg reports from Derdepoort that the Kaffir stations have been destroyed and that the inhabitants are flying.

Chief Lynch, with 3,000 Kaffirs, attacked the Boer laagers, but the natives were dispensed.

### PILCHER'S RAIDING EXPEDITION

Belmont, Cape Colony, Wednesday, Jan 3.—Col Pilcher, it is officially announced being only on a raiding expedition, and for military reasons, being unable to occupy Douglas permanently has evacuated the town, bringing off all the loyalists. He has now returned safely to close proximity to Belmont.

### LOST RATIONS AND RUM

Rensburg Jan 4.—The casualties to Gen French's forces up to the afternoon of Jan 3 were five men killed and 24 wounded.

Coleskop is now the principal scene of the fighting. The destruction of the wrecked train included 22,000 rations and a supply of rum.

### GATACRE AT CYPHERGAT.

Sterkstroom, Jan 4.—Gen Gatacre, today met the invading force at Cyphergat near the British advance camp at Brushmanshoek. The Boers retired hurriedly shortly after the British artillery opened fire. The enemy occupied Molteno and Cyphergat today, but the latter place is now reoccupied by us.

### BOER HORSES STAMPEDED

Frere Camp, Jan 4.—A vigorous shelling of the Boer trenches on the plain this morning forced the burghers to shift their position after their horses had stampeded.

### 16 MORE REGIMENTS OF MILITIA.

London Jan 4.—An army order has been issued directing the embodiment of 16 additional battalions of militia.

### Story of British Attack on Impregnable Boer Fort Near Mafeking.

London, Jan 6, 4.45 a. m.—The Times publishes the following dispatch from Mafeking, dated Dec 26:

"At dawn today Col Baden Powell organized an unsuccessful attack upon a strong position of the enemy at Gametree, two miles from Mafeking, from which the Boers have been maintaining a desultory but annoying shell and rifle fire for several weeks. The railway has recently been reconstructed between the town and Gametree, where the Boers had destroyed it, the final repairs being made in preparation for the sortie.

"During the night the armored train, with Maxim and Hotchkiss guns, under Capt. Williams and troops, took up positions for attack from two sides. Capt. Lord Charles Bentinck and a squadron were in reserve upon the left, while the extreme left wing was occupied by artillery under Major Paszera and a galloping Maxim of the Cape police, the whole being under Col Hore.

"Emplacements were thrown up during the night, the orders being to attack at dawn and the artillery fire to persist upon prolonged tooting from the armored train. At daybreak the guns opened fire and rapidly drew the reply of the enemy, our shells bursting within effective range. Capt. Vernon gave the signal to cease firing and to advance, his squadron leading off.

"As our men engaged the position with their rifle fire, it was soon found that the strength of the fort was greater than we had supposed. The enemy concentrated such an exceedingly hot fire that the advance of Capt. Vernon was almost impossible, but with remarkable heroism and gallantry Capt. Sanford and Vernon, Lieut. Patton and Scout Cooke, who guided the squadrons, and a few men actually reached the sandbags of the fort within three hundred yards of the area of the fort.

"But nothing living could exist there since the ground was swept by Mauser and Martini bullets. The men who charged through this zone of fire suffered terribly, and in following their officers to capture the fort, twenty men lost their lives. Capt. Sanford was the first to fall and Capt. Vernon, already twice wounded, and Lieut. Patton were killed at the foot of the fort. These two officers, climbing a ditch which surrounded the fort, thrust their revolvers through the enemy's loopholes only to be shot themselves the next moment.

"Gametree is surrounded with scrubs which contained many sharpshooters, and their accuracy of fire still further confused the men who had followed Capt. Vernon and who saw him and his brother officers killed. Being without commanders they were driven off at one point, but they endeavored to scale the fort at others. They found the position of the Boers, however, almost impregnable.

"When we retired under cover of the armored train so many men had been wounded that a suspension of hostilities occurred under the auspices of the Red Cross. The velit around the Boer position was at once dotted with flags of mercy, and it was seen that our wounded were scattered within but a short radius of the fort. We had almost completely surrounded it and had it not been so extraordinarily well protected we should have been in possession.

"I went with an ambulance to Gametree. The fort itself is circular, with a wide interior and a narrow frontage, between six and seven feet high, pierced with triple tiers of loopholes, and surrounded by a ditch."

### ANOTHER ACCOUNT

London, Jan 5.—The war office has received, through Gen Forester-Walker, at Cape town, the following dispatch from Col Baden-Powell, dated Mafeking, Dec 26:

"We attacked one of the enemy's works this morning, endeavoring to push back the cordon northward. Our force consisted of three guns, two squadrons of the Protectorate regiment, one of the Bechuanaland rifles, an armored train, etc. The enemy had strengthened their works during the night and doubled the garrison since yesterday's reconnaissance.

"Nevertheless, our attack was carried out and pressed home with the greatest possible gallantry and steadiness under a very hot fire. But all efforts to gain the interior by escalade failed, the fort being practically impregnable.

"Our attack only withdrew after six of our officers and a large number of men had been hit. Nothing could have exceeded the courage and dash displayed.

"The general situation remains unchanged, and the health and spirits of the garrison are very satisfactory.

"I regret to report the following casualties:

"Killed—Capt R. F. Vernon; Capt. H. C. Sanford, Lieut. H. C. Paton, 18 non-commissioned officers and troopers.

"Wounded—Capt. Charles Fitz Clarence, 23 non-commissioned officers and troopers.

"Prisoners—Three troopers." Gen Forester-Walker points out that while the dispatch gives all the names, fails to show that six officers were hit.

### FIGHTING AT COLESBERG

Rensburg, Cape Colony, Jan 5.—Evening.—Colesberg has not yet been occupied. The Boers unexpectedly attacked the British left at daybreak this morning, but were repulsed. They occupied hills to the north of the town, but were eventually driven out of their positions, after an hour's shelling by our guns. They still hold, however, the hills immediately surrounding the town, preventing the British from advancing along the railway.

The British loss in today's engagement was light, while the Boers are reported to have lost 100, including 20 prisoners who were taken by the mounted infantry about midday.

The Boer attackers numbered a thousand men. The Inniskilling Dragoons cut their way through the Boers who were forced to retreat by a heavy artillery and musketry fire.

### RECONNOITERING FROM FRERE CAMP.

London, Jan 6.—A dispatch to the daily telegraph from Frere Camp, dated Friday, Jan 5, says:

"There has been firing today at Ladysmith and at Colenso. A strong cavalry reconnaissance under Lord Dundonald, proceeded westward this morning toward Springfield, where firing is proceeding.

"There is a revival of the report that the Boers are short of provisions. Gen Buller's army is eager for the advance."

### MAJ HARVEY KILLED

London, Jan 5.—A special dispatch from Rensburg says Maj Harvey, of the Tenth Hussars, was killed and Maj Alexander wounded while the Hussars were pursuing retreating Boers after the attack on the British left Jan 4th near Colesberg. Lieut. Gibson of the Inniskillings, was among the wounded.

### TEN THOUSAND PAID.

Superintendent Griffith of the State penitentiary yesterday completed the financial portion of his annual report. During the day he paid \$10,000 into the state treasury and he announces that he has on hand in cash and cotton unsold and bills collectable the sum of \$5,450.28. He also states that plenty of corn, etc., has been made this year to supply the State farms for another year. The summary of the institution's financial statement is as follows:

Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1899,	\$ 4,804.41
Total receipts for 1899,	\$3,513.22
Total expenditures for 1899,	\$68,322.67
Cash on hand Jan. 1, 1900,	\$ 9,885.67
Cash received since Jan. 1, 1900,	2,965.61
45 bales cotton unsold, at \$30,	1,350.00
Amount due and collectable,	1,250.00
	\$15,450.28
Amount paid State treasurer,	10,000.00
Balance on hand and collectable,	\$ 5,450.28

### Gravity of the Situation

#### Admitted in Washington.

#### Surgeon General Wyman Consulted.

Washington, Jan 3.—The war department is taking steps to prevent the introduction of the plague in the Philippine islands, and Secretary Root this morning called into consultation Surgeon General Wyman of the Marine Hospital service to discuss the establishment of a quarantine system for the islands. It was decided that the war department should adopt towards the Philippines a policy like that it pursued towards Cuba in the matter of the protection of health, namely, confide the maintenance of the quarantine system to the Marine Hospital service.

Surgeon General Wyman has no confirmation of the report that three suspicious cases of bubonic plague have been discovered within the walled city of Manila, but no attempt is made to conceal the gravity of the situation should the report prove true. Still it is said, a few sporadic cases need not necessarily result in an epidemic in the islands. Surgeon General Wyman says the disease no longer creates the dread it once did, because it has been demonstrated that it can be handled by modern scientific work. It has been stamped out of Alexandria, Egypt; Kobe, Japan, and Vienna, Austria. The methods of fighting it are the same used against smallpox—isolation, disinfection and sanitation. The greatest danger is due to its possible introduction into new localities through ambulant, or walking cases, which defy the surveillance of the authorities. One feature of the disease which is gratifying to the authorities in view of the possible outbreak of an epidemic in the Philippines is the fact that its history shows that it does not attack Europeans as readily as natives.

#### THREE REPORTED CASES.

Manila, Jan 3, 5.50 p. m.—The health officers have found a native with all the symptoms of bubonic plague in a house in the walled city, where two suspicious deaths have occurred. The patient has been isolated and every precaution has been taken to prevent a spread of the disease.

#### PLEAGUE BREAKS OUT IN RIO JANEIRO.

Rio Janeiro, Jan 3.—The tubonic plague has broken out in the city and neighborhood of San Paulo.

#### WONT TOUCH AT HONOLULU.

San Francisco, Jan 3.—Until all danger of a spread of the plague now prevalent in Honolulu is past, transports leaving this port for the Philippines will not stop there, taking sufficient coal with them from here to last the entire trip.

#### Wood Righting Wrongs.

Habana, Jan 3.—Today Gen Wood issued an important order giving freedom to forty men in the province of Santa Clara. Some of them had been detained without trial and others were suffering excessive punishment. All had been released ten months before by an order issued by Gen Bates, but they were immediately rearrested by orders from division headquarters, on the ground that a department commander did not have the power to pardon.

After looking carefully into the cases Gen Wood decided that the judgment of Gen Bates regarding their release was wise, and consequently today's order setting them at liberty was promulgated.

#### The Negro Pension Swindle.

Macon, Ga. Jan 3.—Some Macon negroes are taking steps to see if the operations of the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief Bounty and Pension Association of the United States of America cannot be stopped by law. A certificate of membership has been turned over to a court official here. It was issued from Nashville and is signed D. D. McNairy, president S. N. N.; Smith, secretary, and I. H. Dickerson manager. The face of the certificate shows that the holder has paid 25 cents to aid the movement and agrees to pay 10 cents a month. The association has many members in this section.

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